

# TIMBER TALK

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODEN MONEY COLLECTORS

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## RENEWAL TIME AGAIN:

It's usually this time of year when Clubs and Associations remind you to renew your membership. The round "TUIT" here indicates that C.A.W.M.C. is no exception, so please be reminded to *'get around to it'* now. Many good intentions go awry due to procrastination. Don't let that be you. Our membership chairman's (*Al Munro*) address is at the bottom of page 2. I'm sure he'll be glad to hear from you.

TUIT

## YEAR'S 'FREE WOODS' ENCLOSED:

Your 'free woods' are enclosed just in time for Christmas. Of course, not all receive this package as I do personally distribute some when I see those members. Still others get their free woods mailed monthly. For those who request that they be held back for 'once a year' mailing, they are enclosed. I hope they arrive safely. There are *eleven round* woods and *one flat* for the year 2005.

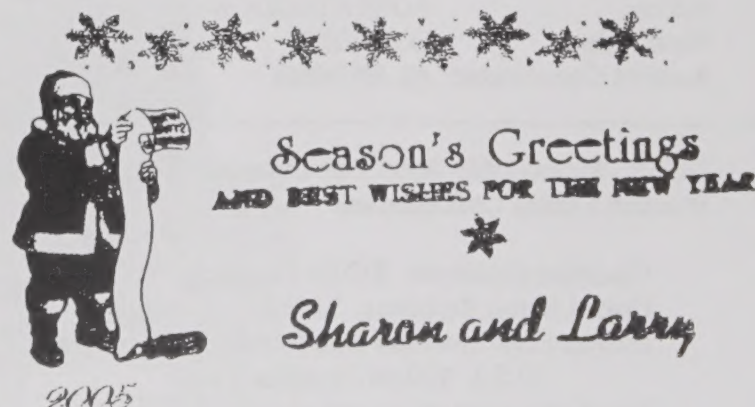
*If others want their woods held back, just let me know.*

**Lou Vesh** has once again provided me with the cardboard inserts. Considerable time and effort is expended by Lou, in the making of these inserts and I am greatly indebted to him. Thank you, Lou.

## CHRISTMAS WOODS:

I've already received my first Christmas wood flat issue and it is shown here in actual size. It is a lovely wood from **Sharon and Larry Walker** of 'Canada Wide Woods'. The wood is 'uniface' with the colours red and gold for the script and Santa. The snowflakes are multi coloured.

Your editor would like to show all members Christmas wood issues so please send them along to me (or a photocopy of the wood), with information on availability. They will be shown in future issues of 'Timber Talk'.





**PAST PRESIDENTS:**

Garry Braunwarth – 1975-1977

Victor Hall – 1977-1979

Don Robb – 1979-1981

Stan Clute – 1981-1983

Neil Probert – 1983-1985

Norm Belsten – 1985-1991

Pat White – 1991-1995

Lou Vesh – 1995-2001

Earl Salterio – 2001-2003

Norm Belsten – 2003-2005

**NORTH YORK COIN CLUB WOOD:**

The North York Coin Club of Toronto has issued the wood shown here to recognize their **500<sup>th</sup> meeting** and **45 years** of existence. The wood was made by Norm Belsten and is blue in colour both sides. There were 250 made. I do not know the cost of these woods but would expect at least a SASE would get you one.

The *North York Coin Club* address is *P.O. Box 58508 Sheppard Centre P.O. 4841 Yonge St. North York, Ont. M2N 6R7.*

**CAWMC OFFICERS**

President: AL MUNRO  
 Vice-President: ART STEPHENSON  
 Secretary-Treasurer and Membership Chairman: AL MUNRO  
 Past-President and Chairman of the Board of Governors: NORM BELSTEN  
 Elected Members of the Board of Governors: BOB BROWN, RUSSELL BROWN, DAVE GILLESPIE, ED MacPHERSON, LOU VESH, JAMES WILLISTON.

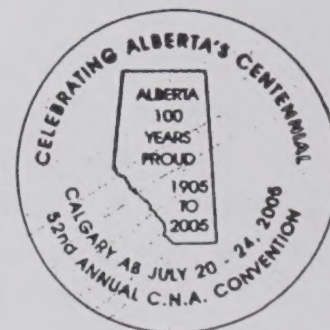
**APPOINTED OFFICERS**

Editor: ROSS KINGDON  
 Fund Raiser: LOU VESH  
 Auction Coordinator: AL MUNRO

**DUES:** Membership dues in the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors are:

Canadian Residents: \$10.00 Canadian Funds  
 United States Residents: \$10.00 U.S. Funds  
 International Members Rate (outside of Canada and U.S.): \$20.00 Canadian Funds  
 Youth (16 years of age and under): \$5.00

Dues paid to Mr. Al Munro, Box 2643 Stn. 'M', Calgary, AB, Canada T2P 3C1

**FREE WOOD OF THE MONTH**

Our 'free wood' this month is donated courtesy of **Neil Probert** of Calgary, Alberta. Neil is a *C.A.W.M.C. Past President* (1983 – 1985) and was presented with such a badge at this year's C.A.W.M.C. general meeting in Calgary (see page 5).

Neil distributed this wood (blue in colour both sides) at that C.N.A. convention and C.A.W.M.C. breakfast, general meeting. Thank you, Neil, for this donation.



## STRATFORD COIN CLUB SHOW:

Your editor found time to attend the Stratford Coin Club show held in late October. There was a wood issued for this show and it will be shown next month. At the show, I was made aware of a newspaper article and two photos that appeared in the local 'Stratford Beacon Herald' just prior to the show. **Bill Cousins** of Canada Wide Woods was kind enough to send them to me. I show them here.

In the photo (with the large tray of coins), beside the written article, *the caption is incorrect. That is not Bob Dowsett shown. It is Larry Walker of Canada Wide Woods* and also President of the Stratford Coin Club. The caption under the "Coronation Pageant" wooden nickel flat is correct. The "Coronation Pageant" of 1937, has 3 flats in the set: nickel (black), dime (green), and quarter (red). This set is very old, scarce and valuable! — read the article. I'd like to know who has this set. *Let me know if you do.*

# Coin collectors value hobby's camaraderie

## Local club founded 45 years ago

By Donal O'Connor  
Staff reporter

To a numismatist, a coin may carry far more than its face value.

Take the five Indian head pennies from the 1890s that first fascinated Frank Smith as a young boy.

Now 63, and a founding member of the Stratford Coin Club, Mr. Smith recalled sending to Winnipeg for a catalogue and finding out each of the pennies was worth 10 cents at the time.

But apart from the increasing value of coins as they acquire antique status, he'll tell you coin collecting's appeal also lies in the fun of discussing various coins with other collectors, assessing their condition and perhaps seeing what another collector might be willing to trade in exchange.

"Personally, I like the artistic look of medallions," said Mr. Smith as he and two of his coin-collecting friends got together earlier this week to mark the 45th anniversary of

the club and prepare for Sunday's annual coin show at Festival Inn.

Thanks to some meticulous bookkeeping by former club member Wilf Becker (now deceased), it's on record that the Stratford club held its first meeting Oct. 3, 1960 at the Optimist Hall with 22 in attendance.

The ever-present possibility of theft has caused collectors to keep a lower profile than they once did, but Mr. Smith, Larry Walker and Bob Dowsett want would-be collectors to know there's a place for them in the club if they wish to join.

They are particularly interested in seeing younger people get involved to ensure the club's future.

They used to display more, they said, but with several reported thefts, collectors now keep their collections in safety deposit boxes and take them out only for special occasions.

"We're forced to do it, but it's a shame," said Mr. Smith, club president.

"What got me started was the big pennies," said Bob Dowsett a former teacher who is the city's main coin dealer. "At first you tend to collect everything ... which you can't do. You have to spe-

cialize."

For some, its medallions, for others it may be coins from a certain period or of a certain size. Or maybe foreign currency.

Typically, Mr. Dowsett attends about 17 shows annually. He also deals on e-Bay and through mail orders.

Among his extensive collection are early Stratford memorabilia including woods, medals and tokens.

"Woods" or "wood flats," as they are sometimes called, aren't exactly coins but they are to be found in some numismatists' collections.

Mr. Dowsett estimated a set of three in his possession is worth about \$200. The wafer-thin currency in the set was distributed by the Lions Club of Stratford to commemorate the coronation in 1937 of George VI and Elizabeth.

The set consists of a red "quarter," a green "dime" and a black "nickel."

Mr. Walker, incidentally, continues the tradition of issuing wooden flats, making them for weddings, anniversaries and other special occasions. Unlike the originals, however, they're likely not redeemable at the bank.

Trading values vary greatly depending on condition and rarity. A 1911 silver dollar, for

example, of which only two were minted (along with a pattern), is so rare it's worth \$1.2 million.

A 1991 Canadian quarter can fetch \$8-\$10. Only 450,000 were minted.

While most of the items in a collector's possession will have their price — either a dollar value or something else acceptable in exchange, there can be some prized items that just aren't for sale.

For Frank Smith, it's the two \$3 bills he feels should be kept in his family. The circa 1850s paper notes, ornately illustrated, are from the Colonial Bank of Canada and the Zimmerman Bank.

"Something like that I wouldn't sell," said the longtime collector, who has had the notes stashed in a bank box for 15-20 years.

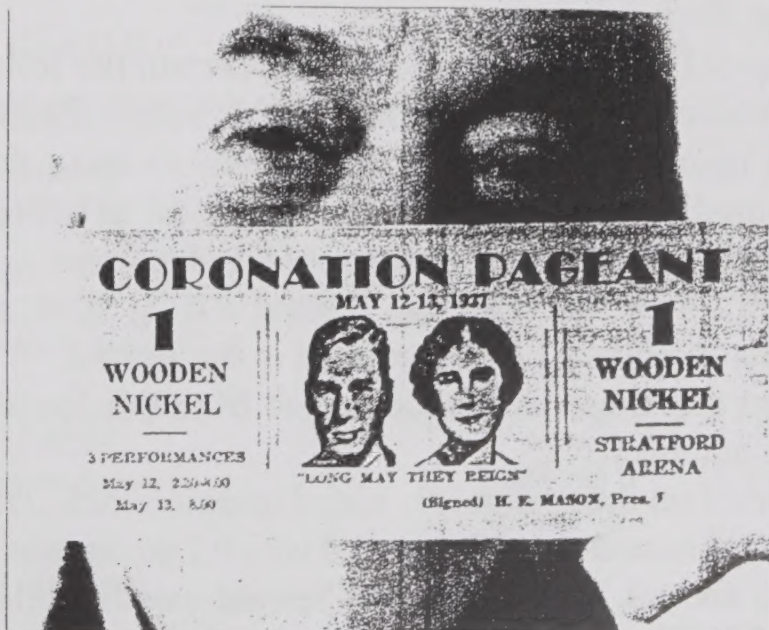
The Stratford Coin Club, which boasts 50 or 60 members, holds monthly meetings and auctions at the Kiwanis Community Centre. Annual membership is \$10.

"You don't have to spend a fortune to get into coin collecting," said Mr. Walker, who said he enjoys the friendship and exchange of knowledge that happens within the club.

For additional information, please phone Mr. Walker at 271-3352.



Stratford Coin Club member Bob Dowsett shows a wooden flat from a 1937 coronation celebration in Stratford.  
Photo by Scott Wishart



## Coin club marks 45 years

Photo by Scott Wishart

Stratford Coin Club member Bob Dowsett shows a wooden flat from a 1937 coronation celebration in Stratford.



*AN ALASKAN CHRONICLE – continued by David ‘Rusty’ Phillips*

This is the last in this nine story series of ‘An Alaskan Chronicle’ by David and I thank him very much. It has been an enjoyable journey.

Our northbound “Alaska Cruise” comes to an end at the northern terminus of our trip. From here, one buses 127 miles north to Anchorage, then flies home... We disembark at:

**SEWARD**

The town of Seward is located on Resurrection Bay on the southeast side of the Kenai Peninsula, on the south coast of the main body of Alaska. It is named for William H. Seward, the U.S. Secretary of State, who pushed the purchase of Alaska in 1867.

Settlers first arrived here in the 1890’s. A long lasting and major event occurred in 1903 when a railroad line was started from the Port of Seward to run into the ‘interior’ of Alaska. By 1910, only 50 miles had been built and the railroad went broke. Finally the U.S. government stepped in and financed the ongoing construction to its northern terminus of Fairbanks, 470 miles away. The railroad was finally completed in 1923. All the while, Seward was the busy supply port for supplies.

To this day, Seward is a very busy ‘Port City’ (due to its year round ice free location), as it is still one of the two main southern terminuses of the railroad. The other is Whittier. Cruise ships dock daily during the summer months, and the Alaska Marine Highway System (ferries) travel in and out on a regular schedule.

The population of 2,794 supports itself primarily on tourism, commercial fishing, shipping and as a location for a state prison.

One special event bears mention. Each year, since 1915, a ‘mad cap’ race takes place here. Racers come from all over the world on July 4<sup>th</sup> to race up and back on Mount Marathon, which overlooks Seward. The race course is a mile and one half up and back down the mountain. The vertical rise in this distance is 3022 feet, over rocks, gravel, mud and snow. Injuries are common and frequent! The best time to date is 43 minutes, 23 seconds, set in 1981.

The woods I have chosen to show are two Solly’s woods – Solly’s in Seward – Solly’s Office. They are both 38mm and are black ink on both sides.

Now, as to what Solly’s was? I have only been able to ascertain the following: There is an existing, old, vacant building known as ‘Old Solly’s Building’ located near the downtown of Seward. It is being considered for demolition so as to free up the location for construction of a new combined Visitor Reception Center as well as offices for the Kenai Fjords National Park and the Chugach National Forest Services Headquarters.

This ‘Old Solly’s Building’, over the years has housed a drug store, saloon, offices and an artist’s studio. It is known that a Solly’s Lounge existed in the 1970’s.

I have therefore concluded that these two woods came from this location when the building was occupied as a lounge or saloon.

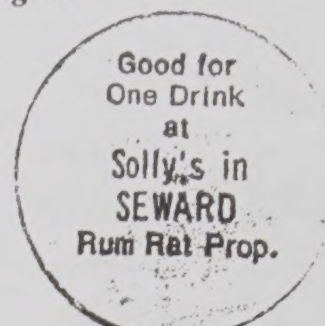
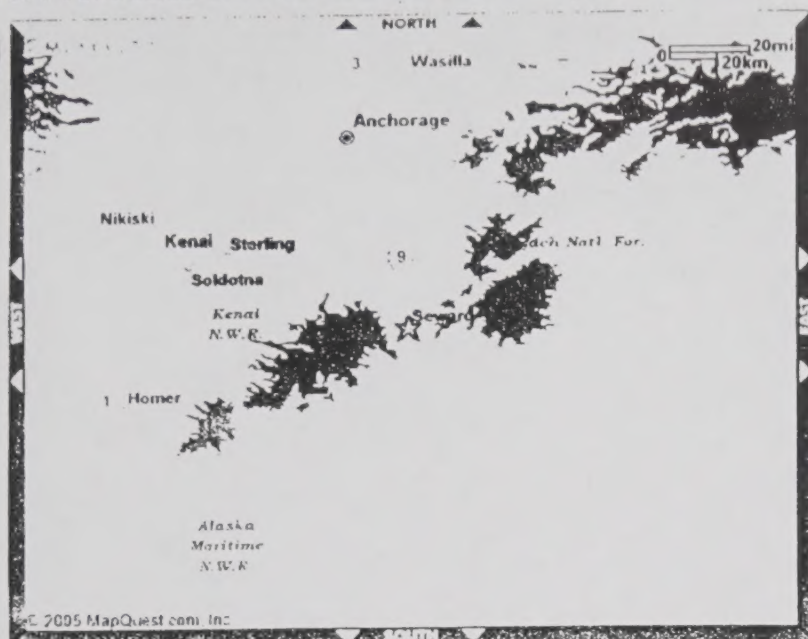
Why the two different names on these woods? Good question?

There are 10 different woods issued from Seward of which I am aware. Only one of those has a single variation (Solly’s as above), thus the total of Seward woods is eleven.

*MAP AND TWO WOODS SHOWN NEXT PAGE – continued on page 5*



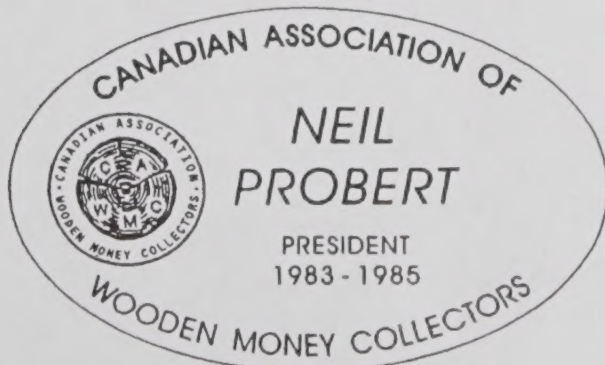
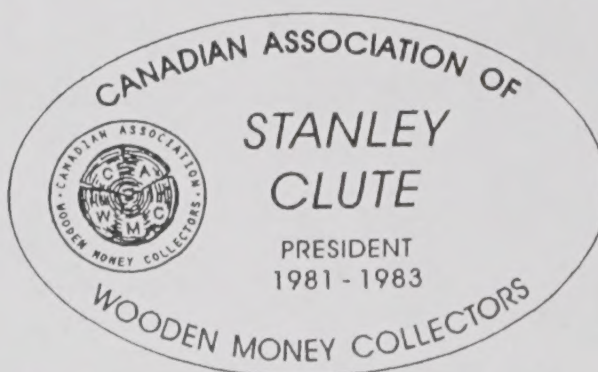
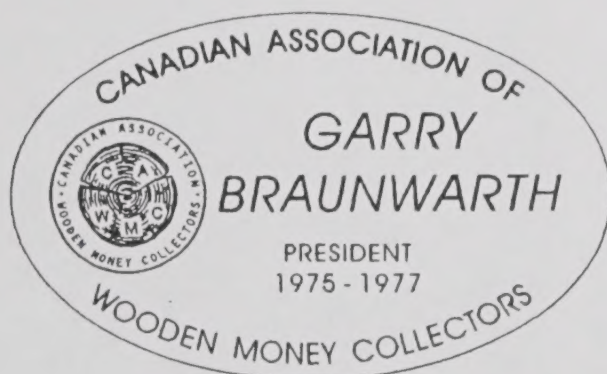
# AN ALASKAN CHRONICLE – by David 'Rusty' Phillips – continued from page 4



## PAST PRESIDENT AND LIFE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATIONS:

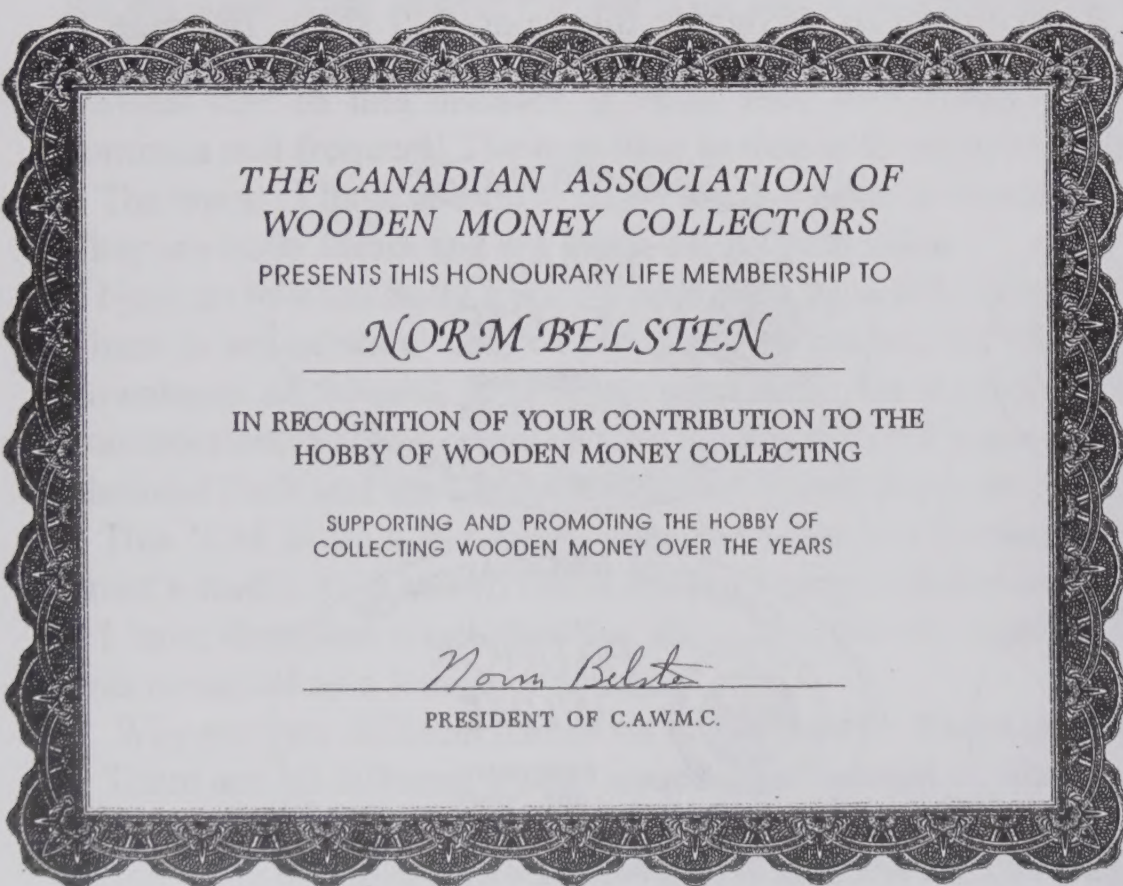
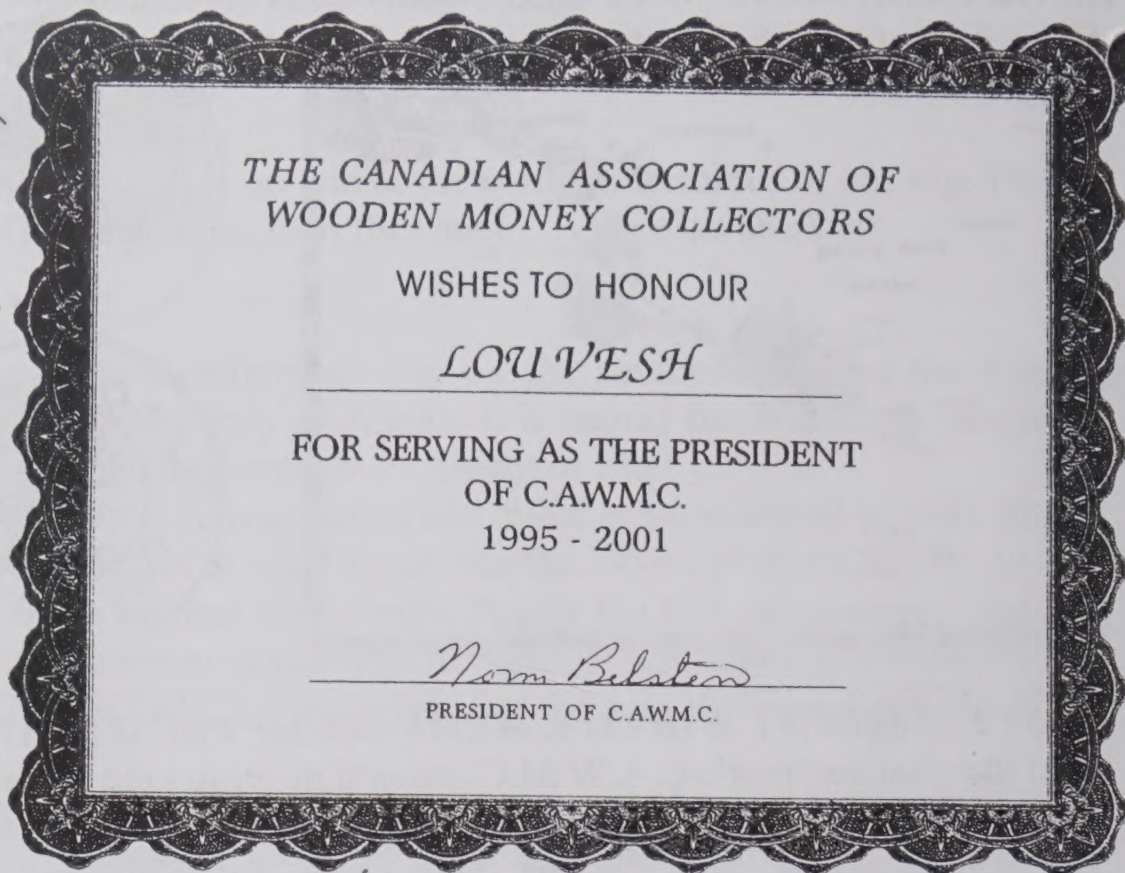
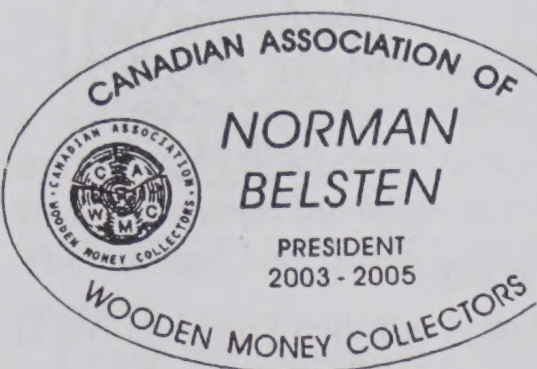
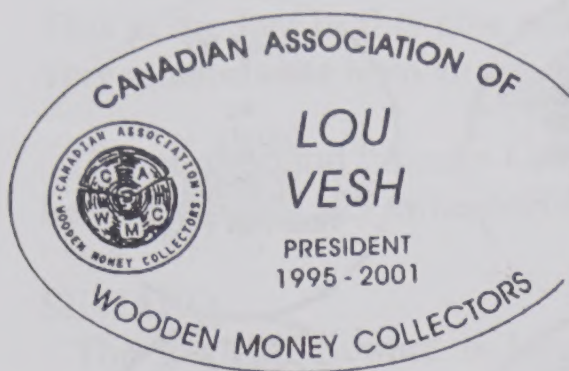
At this past summer's C.A.W.M.C. general meeting held in Calgary, our then President *Norm Belsten* presented the remaining Past President 'wooden' badges to each of the following: *Garry Braunwarth, Neil Probert, Stan Clute, Pat White* and *Lou Vesh*. With each wooden badge was a *certificate* also presented to each individual. I show here and on page 6, pictures of the badges presented and a sample (Lou Vesh) of the certificates (reduced in size) presented to each.

As well, two Honourary Life Memberships were bestowed upon two very deserving members. Our incoming President *Al Munro* and our outgoing President *Norm Belsten* both received a 'wooden' badge and a *certificate* to recognize this honour. I show, on page 6, pictures of both badges presented and a sample (Norm Belsten) of the certificates (also size reduced) presented.

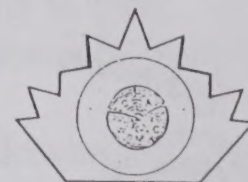




## PAST PRESIDENT AND LIFE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATIONS: - continued from page 5



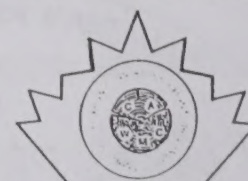
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION  
OF WOODEN MONEY COLLECTORS



HONOURARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

PRESENTED TO *AL MUNRO*

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HONOURARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

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